

Remarks

Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8 and 10-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,887,029 of *Husted et al.* ("*Husted*").

Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Husted* and U.S. Patent No. 4,443,865 of *Schultz et al.* ("*Schultz*").

Claims 1-16 have been cancelled. New claims 17-39 have been added.

It is submitted that new claim 17 is not anticipated by *Husted*. New claim 17 is a system having a set of modules that are each capable of both communicating via a network communication link and performing a function that is coordinated by a synchronized time. *Husted* does not disclose a system having a set of modules that both communicate via a network communication link and perform a function that is coordinated by a synchronized time as claimed in new claim 17. Instead, *Husted* discloses a system with one a set of modules that communicate via high speed communication links and a different set of modules that perform coordinated functions for the system. For example, *Husted* discloses an industrial controller 10 that includes a set of communication modules 24a and 24b that are capable of communication via high speed communication links 27a and 27b (*Husted*, col. 4, lines 45-50) and a separate set of I/O modules 20 that perform industrial control functions (*Husted*, col. 4, lines 36-44). In contrast, the modules of new claim 17 are capable of network communication and coordinating functions in the system.

It is also submitted that *Husted* does not disclose a communication device that is selected in response to a physical placement of a set of modules in a system as

claimed in new claim 17.

Given that new claims 18-29 depend from new claim 17, it is submitted that new claims 18-29 are not anticipated by *Husted*.

It is further submitted that new claims 30-39 are not anticipated by *Husted*. New claims 30-39 include limitations similar to the limitations of new claim 17 including a set of modules that perform coordinated functions and that also communicate via a network communication link as well as a communication device that is selected in response to the physical locations of the modules. Therefore the remarks stated above with respect to new claim 17 also apply to new claims 30-39.

Applicant further submits that new claims 17-39 are not obvious in view of *Husted* and *Schultz*. *Husted* and *Schultz* do not teach or suggest a set of modules that perform coordinated functions and that also communicate via a network communication link as claimed in new claims 17-39. Moreover, *Husted* and *Schultz* do not teach or suggest a communication device that is selected in response to the physical locations of a set of modules as claimed in new claims 17-39.

It is respectfully submitted that in view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, the applicable objections and rejections have been overcome.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1078 for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time, which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

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